dating back to the period when the Slovak Republic was part of the former Czechoslovakia, and agreed that steps should be taken to revive cooperation in the economic, commercial, defence, S&T, cultural and other fields. Bilateral consular issues were also discussed. It was agreed that arrangements would be made for issuance of visas without charging any visa fees, and for visa free travel to India of holders of Slovak diplomatic/official passports. The Slovak side has indicated interest in reviving defence cooperation with India (which India enjoyed with the former Czechoslovakia). Rajya Raksha Mantri visited the Slovak Republic in June 1994. The Slovak Defence Minister had accompanied Prime Minister Moravcik to India and had separate talks with Rajya Raksha Mantri. The Slovak side have made preliminary offers in regard to certain defence and defence related products which are to be still to be evaluated at the technical and expert level.

Prime Minister Moravcik's visit was the first contact at this level between the two countries. It has improved bilateral understanding and imparted fresh impetus to bilateral Indo-Slovak ties. During the course of the visit, a Protocol on Foreign Office consultations and an MoU on cooperation on S&T were signed. An MoU on the Indo-Slovak Joint Committee on economic and commercial cooperation was also concluded. Separately, CII and the Union of Slovak Industry also signed an MoU. There is at the moment no proposal to send a high powered delegation to the Slovak Republic. Parliamenary elections are due in Slovakia on 30 September — 1 October, 1994.

U.S. Committee suggestion to solve 'Kashmir dispute'

1124. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that U. S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee have made some suggestions to Pakistan for a division of Kashmir along the Line of Actual Control as a solution to the over four decade old dispute;

(b) if so, details thereof with reaction of Government.

(c) whether Government have repeated their stand to Government of U.S.A. that the issue of Kashmir would be settled by two countries in terms of Simla Agreement; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Government are aware that Congressman Lee Hamilton, Chairman of the US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, during a speech on Indo-US relations in Washington on April 29, 1994 stated that over the course of four-plus decades, the Line of Control dividing Kashmir has taken on the attributes of an international border... The only realistic solution may be to recognize the Line of Control as the international border between Pakistan and India.....Government's position remains that the whole of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) India's position on the Kashmir issue was again conveyed during Prime Minister's meeting with President Clinton in May, 1994. The Joint Statement issued at the conclusion of PM's visit to the US states that "the two leaders agreed on the need for bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan to resolve outstanding issues, including Jammu & Kashmir, as envisaged in the Simla Agreement".